

my button and let you speak again.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you.

SENATOR NEWELL: Most of the additional amendments deal with the Public Works Department for cities. It provides for a special bidding procedures which allows second class cities and villages to sell certain items on a consignment basis. It also allows these public work provisions, the electric utilities to buy certain items that are needed from time to time in a more timely manner as opposed to something that they can wait to put out and that is basically what the amendments do.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, then, if I read it correctly, on page 4 beginning on line 26, there is new language which indicates that if the municipality has been purchasing materials previously that they can buy the same material at the same price as they had done so previously without going for a new bid, is that right?

SENATOR NEWELL: That is correct. Now I am not sure that is a new bid...one second here. It is a provision to allow them to use the state bidding procedure that is presently being used.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am going to oppose the bill and I don't like to do that because it looks like I am sort of nit picking but I just want to call attention that there are procedures in the present statute which allow for the exemption process up to \$7,500. I believe that one of the best protections we have from any kind of inconsistency or irregularity is the public press and I think that the bidding procedures and the notification by the press, et cetera, are a very valuable protection and I recognize that many times this causes some problems for those local municipalities but I think that by and large I am always pleasantly surprised by the large number of individuals who take note of our expenditures down here on a personal basis and on a state basis and also city and county expenditures. So I would hope that we would not open another loophole here in which we give a little bit of extra latitude at a time when all of us are deeply concerned with the cost of government. It seems inconsistent to me that at a time when we are trying to hold down the cost of government that we escalate the amount of the money that is allowed to be spent without public scrutiny. It does not make sense to me. I must oppose the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Remmers, did you wish to speak to